



One Newark Center, 17th floor, Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 639-8400; fax (973) 639-1953

Daniel P. Sullivan, Chairman
Joel S. Weiner, Executive Director

October 6, 2006

217769



Hon. Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

OCT 10 2006

Part of
Public Record

Dear Secretary Williams:

On September 11, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) approved a resolution endorsing a petition filed with your office by the City of Jersey City in the matter of STB Finance Docket No. 34818. As required for filing, 11 copies of the resolution are attached.

As the resolution indicates, the NJTPA Board of Trustees urges the Surface Transportation Board to review Conrail's sale of the South Street Embankment in Jersey City to ensure that all proper procedures for abandonment of a rail line were strictly adhered to.

The City sees the embankment as a valuable public asset, with potential for a variety of uses, ranging from parkland to a key transit link. As the regional planning body for a densely populated area where land is a precious resource, the NJTPA believes that transportation rights-of-way are an asset of great public value. Such rights-of-way should be preserved rather than developed whenever possible.

Again, we encourage the STB to carefully review Conrail's sale of this important property.

Very truly yours,

Daniel P. Sullivan

Daniel P. Sullivan
Chairman, NJTPA

cc: Hon. Jerramiah Healy, Mayor, City of Jersey City
Hon. Thomas DeGise, County Executive, Hudson County
Hon. Peter Palmer, Freeholder, Somerset County
Charles Montagne, Esq.
Robert M. Jenkins III, Esq.
Fritz R. Kahn, Esq.

**RESOLUTION # A-468: ENDORSING JERSEY CITY'S PETITION TO THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**



WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 13-county northern New Jersey region and is responsible for coordinating all regional planning involving the transportation infrastructure in northern New Jersey serving the movement of goods and people; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA Board of Trustees consists of: one local elected official from each of the 13 counties and from the region's two major cities, Newark and Jersey City; a Governor's Representative; the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT); the Executive Directors of NJ Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and a Citizens' Representative appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA Board of Trustees is concerned with the ability to efficiently move people and goods throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Jersey City is the second most populous city in New Jersey, a major regional employment center, and the state's fastest growing city; and

WHEREAS, several regional commuter highway corridors pass through Jersey City to gain access to the Holland Tunnel and lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate its own continued growth the City intends to rely on increasing utilization of mass transit; and

WHEREAS, Conrail has sold the Sixth Street Embankment in Jersey City to a private developer; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jersey City has petitioned the Surface Transportation Board to declare that Conrail was obliged to seek formal abandonment of the railroad line before selling the property to a private developer; and

WHEREAS, if the City's petition succeeds, Conrail's sale of the property will be set aside and the City will have first option to purchase the property for a public use before it is offered for private development; and

WHEREAS, it is the City's intention to explore several options for developing this transportation right-of-way, including: a light rail initiative, the East Coast Greenway, a public park, or any other public use the City deems appropriate;

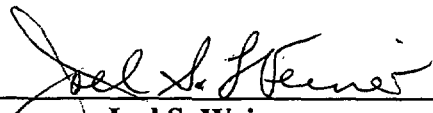
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority supports Jersey City in seeking a review by the Surface Transportation Board to determine that all applicable rules and procedures governing abandonment of a rail line and the public's interest in its disposition have been strictly adhered to regarding the Sixth Street Embankment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Surface Transportation Board, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the Federal Railroad Administration.

This resolution shall take effect on this 11th day of September 2006.

Certification

**I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution
adopted by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
at its scheduled meeting held on September 11, 2006.**



Joel S. Weiner
Executive Director, NJTPA